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# NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

## APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR W. W. CAMPBELL AS DIRECTOR OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The Board of Regents of the University of California, at a meeting held in San Francisco on December 11, 1900, by unanimous vote, elected Professor W. W. CAMPBELL to be Director of the Lick Observatory.

As evidence of the general approval with which this action of the Board of Regents meets, we quote the following sentences from the note by Director GEO. E. HALE, of the Yerkes Observatory, in the December (1900) number of the *Astrophysical Journal*:—

> "The wisdom of this choice will be apparent to every one familiar with the circumstances of the case. The task which falls to the successor of Professor KEELER is no easy one, a fact which the Observatory Committee fully appreciated. They accordingly deferred action until the opinions of many eminent astronomers in this country and abroad could be secured. The replies, almost without exception, named Professor CAMPBELL as first choice. It is evident that his remarkable success as an investigator, his tireless energy, and his ability to direct the work of others are widely known and appreciated. It is a pleasure to extend congratulations to the President and Regents of the University of California for the wise manner in which the appointment was made, to the Lick Observatory for its bright prospects under such leadership, and to Professor CAMPBELL himself for the wider opportunity in the prosecution of his researches which he will now enjoy."

## THE D. O. MILLS EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

In the past five years, numerous references have been made in these *Publications* to the Mills spectrograph, an instrument presented to the Lick Observatory by the Hon. D. O. MILLS. This instrument, attached to the eye-end of the 36-inch refractor, has been used three nights per week in determining the velocities of the brighter stars in the line of sight. The main purpose of the investigation is to secure observational data from which to determine the speed and direction of motion of the solar system through space. In addition, it was hoped that the data secured would throw light on many of the fundamental questions relating to the constitution of the stellar universe, such as the distances of the stars, their grouping in families, etc. The results thus far obtained have shown that the field is one of unexpected richness. It may well occupy the attention, for an indefinite period, of the large number of observers and institutions now engaging in its development. Thus far we have secured observations of about 325 stars situated between the North Pole and 30° South Declination. The region south of 30° cannot be observed from Mt. Hamilton; yet the necessity of obtaining data somewhat uniformly distributed over the entire sky will be apparent to all who have considered the difficulties in the way of a satisfactory determination of the elements of the solar motion.

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For three or four years past I have hoped that, when the proper time came, this work could be extended to the South Pole, by means of a suitably equipped observing-station in the Southern Hemisphere. The rapid progress of the work at Mt. Hamilton made it desirable that the southern programme should be taken up at once. With the approval and indorsement of President WHEELER of this university, I laid my plans before Mr. MILLS, in November; and he at once stated that it would give him great pleasure to supply the funds to defray the entire expenses of the expedition. It is not often that an observatory receives such liberal support, in an ideal manner, for an ideal purpose. The Lick Observatory makes grateful acknowledgment of its indebtedness to Mr. MILLS'S generosity at the present time and in the past.

In the next number of these *Publications* I hope to be able to give in some detail the plans of the expedition.

The observing-station will be selected with great care, probably in Chile or west of the Blue Mountains in Australia. In addition to a large proportion of clear nights, I should like to be assured of low relative humidity, a small range of night temperatures, little or no south night-winds, and fair accessibility.

W. W. CAMPBELL.